



FREEDOM WATCH



November 2, 2002 ❖ Published in the interest of those serving in Operation Enduring Freedom ❖ Bagram, Afghanistan

News briefs

(Compiled from
CNN.com)

New quake as death toll hits 29

SAN GIULIANO DI PUGLIA, Italy—The village of San Giuliano di Puglia resembled a medieval ghost town as dusk descended Friday over the area a day after a 5.9 magnitude-earthquake leveled a school and killed 26 children. Three women were also killed Thursday — one of them a teacher at the school. In all, 29 people — 26 of them between the ages of 3 and 10 — died. The evacuees were camping in tents in the village sports center, next to the gymnasium being used as a makeshift morgue for the children who died. Friday's aftershock — with a magnitude of 5.8 — sent sobbing families streaming in panic from the gymnasium just as they began the grim task of identifying the bodies of the children lost. Hundreds of people were evacuated from the town's historic center after the second tremor filled the village sky with a heavy cloud of dust that settled

See **BRIEFS**, Page 3

Weapons cache reaches ANA trainees



Future 6th Battalion Afghan National Army trainees help download ammunition for storing.

Story & photo by Staff
Sgt. Rhonda M. Lawson
28th Public Affairs
Detachment

KABUL, Afghanistan — The weapons cache recovered by Task Force Panther soldiers in Khowst reached the Kabul Military Training Center Wednesday.

The cache, the largest found to date, was given to the Afghan National Army to supplement their training program.

Much of the equipment recovered in prior caches were in such poor condition that it was unfit to use for training and had

See **ANA**, Page 2

Contingency contracting, logistics force multipliers

By Spc. Travis Edwards
Joint Logistics Command PAO

KARSHI-KHANABAD, Uzbekistan—Local and international contractors are providing vital support to Coalition soldiers by planning and executing contingency operations in the war on terrorism.

"In today's operational environment, contracted support is an integral and often transparent part of the military's day-to-day operations during deployments," said Maj. Ruthann Haider, chief of contracting for Coalition Joint Task Force - 180.

Haider is one of seven 1st Corps Support Command contingency con-

tracting officers from Fort Bragg, N.C., currently deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

"We supplement the military supply system by providing deployed commanders a means to obtain needed materials, services and supplies not readily available through normal supply channels," Haider said.

CJTF - 180's contingency contracting capability falls under the Joint Logistics Command at Camp Stronghold Freedom, Uzbekistan, and is a vital, integral part of day-to-day support operations across the theater.

Often, the support provided by contracting officers supplements or is a component of other logistics, engi-

neering or base camp Quality-of-Life initiatives.

"If it weren't for our ability to leverage civilian contractors for some goods and services, several hundred more soldiers, airmen and Marines would be required in the CJTF - 180 area of operations to make up the difference," said Col. Tom Palmer, JLC commander.

CCOs deploy to support soldiers. They are normally among the first soldiers to deploy into an area of operations and the last to leave.

In addition to procuring supplies not available to deployed units, the

See **CONTRACT**, Page 2

CONTRACT, from Page 1

contingency contracting mission impacts the physical identity of base camps such as Camp Stronghold Freedom and others throughout the OEF theater.

Camp Stronghold Freedom's contracting office consists of a small and dedicated team of soldiers, mainly from Fort Bragg, N.C., that award and oversee contracts for base infrastructure improvements.

"A common task for this team, consisting of three contracting officers, two host-nation interpreters, two transportation/movements officers and an administrative specialist, is to contract with local construction firms for base camp improvements and new building construction," said Capt. Andy Doniec, a CCO from Rock Island Arsenal, Ill.

In order to accomplish much of the base camp improvements, communication through interpreters is absolutely critical.

CCOs rely heavily on people like



Photo by Spc. Travis Edwards

A local Uzbek worker smooths a newly poured cement platform before it dries. The contracted workers are supervised by military and civilian managers.

Nasiba Alimova, a Uzbeki interpreter who speaks six languages fluently.

"We help the contracting office by doing the market research to find and develop a pool of local vendors who are able to meet the military's requirements," Alimova said.

In addition, Alimova and fel-

low contracting interpreter Sobir Radjapov said they felt lucky to play a small role that improves their country's economic condition, strengthens ties with the United States, and supports the global war on terrorism.

"It's quite a challenge to deploy 7,000 miles to a remote loca-

tion and build a base camp from scratch, but it's something we are trained to do," said Haider just before meeting with vendors to discuss a new runway improvement construction project.

Since the JLC took over command and control of the contracting office at Camp Stronghold Freedom, the 1st COSCOM contracting team has awarded over 175 separate contracts with an estimated value of \$7.2 million.

"The personnel and projects of the JLC's Contracting Office and its subordinate organizations throughout Afghanistan have had immeasurable, noticeable and highly appreciated effects," said Palmer. "The uniquely trained personnel in the contracting offices are able to make goods and services available to the base camps that ultimately affect morale and combat readiness."

"These contingency contracting officers are truly combat multipliers," Palmer said.

Mine Field Marathon

The 26.2-mile Mine Field Marathon Nov. 29. Registration is during dinner at both dining facilities in Bagram Air Base. The next 50 people to sign up will be able to purchase a t-shirt for \$16.

ANA, from Page 1

to be destroyed.

"We are now actually sending people from our battalion to assess the usability of the weapon systems and the ammunition, and very little of it is actually usable, so we don't recover that much," said Maj. John, commander of the Special Forces company in charge of ANA training. "As you can imagine, being stored in a box in a cave for an indefinite amount of time, it kind of degrades."

However, this particu-

"It finally gives them a chance to train without the interruption of misfires."

— Sgt. 1st Class Harland

Special Forces

lar cache, which included 800 82mm mortar rounds, 400,000 12.7mm DSHK ammunition, an SPG 9 recoilless rifle and RPK machine guns, contained ammunition that didn't appear to be opened.

"It's like brand new," said Sgt. 1st Class Harland, also an SF soldier. "You can tell it was taken care of pretty well."

Any weapons and ammunition in the cache found unserviceable will be destroyed by Explosive Ordnance Division soldiers attached to Combined Joint Task Force - 180. Task Force Panther stored the material at a forward operating base in Southeastern Afghanistan until they could facilitate its distribution.

John explained that much of the equipment the ANA trains with is donated by other countries. For example, he said Romania donated more than 1,000 AK-47s. The ammunition and weapon systems received Wednesday from the cache will also be added to the program.

He added that although the center isn't critically short on weapons and ammunition at this time, continuous training will increase their need.

"It's a great help," John said. "If we find

more of these caches and they're in good condition and are serviceable, then it would be a great benefit to us."

In addition to the AK-47, the ANA trains on the RPK and PKM machine guns, the RPG 7 rocket propelled grenade launcher and the SPG 9 recoilless rifle. Harland noted that receiving ammunition for these systems will enhance training.

"It finally gives them a chance to train without the interruption of misfires," he said.

HIND SIGHT

1841

The second Afghan War begins.

1920

The first radio broadcast in the United States is made from Pittsburgh.

1923

U.S. Navy aviator H.J. Brown sets new world speed record of 259 mph in a Curtiss racer.

1936

The first high-definition public television transmissions begin from Alexandra Palace in north London by the BBC.

1947

Howard Hughes' *Spruce Goose* flies for the first and last time.

1959

Charles Van Doren confesses that the TV quiz show "21" is fixed and that he had been given the answers to the questions asked him.

BRIEFS, from Page 1

slowly back again to earth. The local police chief told *CNN* that an investigation was under way to determine if any criminal negligence could have contributed to the 42-year-old school's collapse Thursday. Angry residents are asking why the school fell like a house of cards while other structures nearby had only minor damage.

Police link September shooting to sniper suspects

ROCKVILLE, Md. — Task force investigators late Friday linked yet another shooting to the D.C.-area sniper suspects — this one two-and-a-half weeks before the deadly 21-day spree that left 10 people dead and three others wounded in the Washington metropolitan area. In the latest case, Benny Oberoi, 22, an employee of a liquor store in Silver Spring, Md., was shot and wounded by a single bullet soon after he and his boss closed up the store Sept. 14. He is expected to make a full recovery. Suspects John Allen Muhammad, 41, and John Lee Malvo, 17, have also been linked to killings in Washington state, Louisiana and Alabama. The two suspects face multiple murder charges, some of which could result in a death penalty verdict, depending on the jurisdiction.

Bagram Air Base MWR movies

The Bagram Air Base Morale, Welfare and Recreation staff present "Swim Fan" tonight at 1530Z at the MWR building.

Tomorrow's movie will be "Unfaithful," showing at the same time.

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Sunday</i>
Bagram:	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 75F L: 41F	<i>Rain</i> H: 72F L: 43F
Kandahar:	<i>Haze</i> H: 82F L: 55F	<i>Haze</i> H: 79F L: 54F
Kabul:	<i>Haze</i> H: 72F L: 39F	<i>Rain</i> H: 68F L: 39F
Uzbekistan:	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 77F L: 45F	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 69F L: 45F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

FREEDOM WATCH

Freedom Watch falls under the supervision of the Combined Joint Task Force - 180.

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COALITION SPORTSZONE

The Day in Sports

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

Newcomer leads, Tiger in the hunt for Tour championship

ATLANTA — The cold, swirling wind at East Lake wasn't strong enough to blow away 153-pound Charles Howell III. It only reminded him that something around par wouldn't be such a bad score Friday in the Tour Championship.

Howell wound up one stroke better — a 69 — and one stroke ahead of David Toms, Steve Lowery, Len Mattiace and Vijay Singh.

Despite making two bogeys with a wedge in his hand from the fairway, Howell finished with eight straight pars and grabbed a one-stroke lead in the season-ending tournament for the top 30 players on the money list.

"If I make two pars there I'm 7 under, which looks a little bit different than 5 (under)," Howell said after playing two rounds in 135. "Obviously, birdies were hard to come by. Every time I made a birdie, I tried to hang on as much as I could."

Mattiace was hanging on for dear life at the end of his round.

He was tied for the lead on the par-3 18th when he hit a 3-wood into the bunker, followed by a sand iron that looked like it might go nearly as far.

Mattiace caught the bunker shot thin and it sailed over the green and momentarily out of sight. The ball clanged off the top of the corporate tents surrounding the 18th green and caromed back to the short grass leading up to the green, 15 yards from where he started.

He got up-and-down from 85 feet to save his bogey and wound up with a 68. No telling what would have happened without those corporate tents.

"In a way, I got very lucky," Mattiace said.

He was due. This is the guy who took an 8 on the island-green 17th hole at The Players Championship three years ago in the final round.

Toms had the best score of the day, a bogey-free 66 and earned a spot in the final twosome with Howell on Saturday. The former PGA champion has been playing as well as anyone lately, but can't seem to get a win for all his great scoring — 47-under par in the last two tournaments.

"I'm pleased with the way my game is," Toms said. "If I can hang in there when I hit bad shots and recover like I did today, I'll be fine."

Tiger Woods is hanging around, too.

Despite consecutive bogeys at the turn, Woods finished with a 68 and was at 139, just four strokes out of the lead.

The worst of his round was on the par-5 ninth, when he hit a bunker shot over the green, putted with his 3-wood about 15 feet past the hole and walked off with one of only six bogeys on that hole Friday.

"I wanted to get under par," he said. "To end up under par, I'm right in the ball game."

Join the crowd.

Nineteen players were within six strokes of the lead going into the weekend, and except for Rocco Mediate (7 over), only 10 shots separated top to bottom.

2002 Bowl Championship Series

TEAM	TOTAL
1. Oklahoma	3.33
2. Miami (Fla.)	6.69
3. Notre Dame	6.99
4. Georgia	8.24
5. Ohio State	9.49
6. Virginia Tech	10.88
7. Texas	15.64
8. Washington State	19.71
9. North Carolina State	20.73
10. Iowa	22.89
11. USC	23.04
12. Colorado	29.51
13. Michigan	31.22
14. LSU	36.78
15. Kansas State	37.11



Wash. St. reportedly fought over woman

PULLMAN, Wash. — The locker room fight that might put a serious hit on No. 8 Washington State's quest for the Pacific-10 Conference championship apparently began over a woman.

The altercation — between linebacker Ira Davis and cornerback Jason David — sidelined David for six to eight weeks with a broken cheekbone and led to Davis' indefinite suspension from the team.

The loss of David, in particular, is a blow to the Cougars (7-1), who will face one of the nation's top offensive teams in 16th-ranked Arizona State (7-2) Saturday in Martin Stadium. Both teams are 4-0 in conference. The winner will become the Pac-10 Conference leader and front-runner for the Rose Bowl.

Cougars coach Mike Price said the altercation "saddens me very, very much," but said coaches are "going to do everything we can to get our team focused on our opponent this weekend."

"The most dangerous animal in the jungle is a wounded animal and we're wounded, so look out," Price said.

Although Price characterized the fight as "an isolated event between two players" involving a misunderstanding over "a third party," refusing to say who that person was. A newspaper reported Friday that it was over a woman.

Japanese star decides to become free-agent; Yankees interested

TOKYO — Hideki Matsui believes he'd stimulate Japanese baseball if he plays in the major leagues.

The 28-year-old outfielder, considered the best hitter in Japan, announced his intention Friday to leave the Yomiuri Giants and open talks with U.S. teams.

Matsui is eligible for free agency because he has nine years of service in the Japanese major leagues. The Japanese commissioner's office sent a notice to the major league commissioner's office in New York on Friday saying that talks can begin Nov. 13, Japanese time.

"I thought about this issue in my own way," he said. "It pains me to think about it. But I personally think it can't be helped. I'm proud to have played in Japanese baseball and I think it will reinvigorate Japanese baseball if I go over there and play well. I also think new stars will emerge in Japan."

The New York Yankees are expected to be one of the teams most interested in Matsui. They sent assistant general manager Jean Afterman to scout him in August.

Solution from Friday's Elementary Crossword in the *Freedom Watch*

(Courtesy of QUIZLAND.com)

A	L	L	O	T		S	L	E	D		S	P	E	C
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Top pick McKinnie agrees to terms with Vikings

For offensive tackle Bryant McKinnie and the Minnesota Vikings, the long wait is finally over.

Several league sources said McKinnie, the seventh overall player selected in the 2002 April draft, has agreed to a contract that will end his 98-day holdout. The former University of Miami star is en route Friday to Minneapolis where he will officially sign a five-year contract, the sources confirmed.

The agreement ends a long stalemate, one that often became acrimonious, and which cost the Vikings a much-needed offensive lineman.



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By Kevin Kilgore

Laugh Support